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VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

VACAVILLE , CALIFORNIA

December 2015

Meeting Minutes

The November, 2015, meeting of the VVRC was convened by our President, Frank - KJ6RWQ, at 19:10hr. There were 16 members in attendance, and there was a full quorum of the board.

Frank opened the meeting with a brief summary of what business absolutely needed to be accomplished during thecourse of the evening.

VVRC Treasurer, Bob – K6HEW, summarized his financial report as follows:
The total amount in the VVRC account was $3,394.43, and it consisted of the following amounts bycategory: General fund: $2,494.43; Repeater fund: $284; Project fund: $616; Prize fund: $136.

Tom Christman – KE6MDM, re-caped that the December Christmas dinner will be held at the Fairfield *Home-Town Buffet*, Thursday, 10 Dec., at 18:30. The price for adults is $12.19. Beverages are an extra $2.49, AND – for heaven's sake – please tell the gal at the check-in register that you are with the VVRC when you arrive! As always, we will have the Christmas drawing for the 2015 prize fund, but, since no one took on the responsibility of coordinating and lining-up door prizes, there won't be the traditional door prize drawing this year.

The discussion then moved to the election and the non-existent slate of candidates for the board of officers and board of directorswhich, in accordance with the VVRC by-laws, is required to be voted into office during the November meeting.

When the meeting began, there were only two declared candidates on the list:Marcus Maclean – KI6WDX, running for President, and Ruff Gunn – K6DME, for B.O.D. Then, after querying Bob, he was kind enough to agree to run another term as Finance officer. This left the offices of V.P., and Secretary to be filled.

Then Skip was asked if he'd stay on as Secretary, and after thanking the group for the privilege of being able to serve the VVRC as Secretary for so many years, he declined to stay on citing personal commitments at this time that would preclude him from fulfillingthe duties of office.

The "*unspoken question* "of the evening seemed to be: why is it so darn difficult to find *just seven members (!)* out of a membership roll of 37 or, even out of the 16 in attendance that evening, who are willing to step up and take an active role in leading or contributing to the running of **OUR** VVRC? The members were told that the five short pages of the VVRC bylaws had been published in the November newsletter to enable easy access and review, to give everyone a look into the duties and responsibilities of each office within the VVRC, with the hope that this might stimulate some to run for office if they knew what would be required of them. However, when asked how many had actually read them, only 4 of the 16 in attendance– all 4 being present and past officers — said they had ever read them, and none of the present candidates were included in the four! This revelation begged the next question: how can one lead a group when one has absolutely NO idea of the scope of their duties, or any knowledge of the rules by which they are to execute the duties of office?

After a deep pause, Jerry – KD6WKY, proposed a formal motion to disband the VVRC, citing the complete indifference and lack of participation and involvement by so many within the club. Since this was a legitimate motion, the presiding President was required to bring the motion to a vote, with the following result: YES = 2; NO = 10;

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Hams Helping Hams

It all started when Richard, KJ6MIB requested help during the one of the regular Tuesday night W6VVR net to determine if his antenna was performing properly. Steve, KJ6KIH responded that he would see what he could do and arrangements to meet were made.

Steve sets up his equipment for testing

Jerry, KJ6SCC, Skip, AF6HC and Jerry, KD6WKY also showed up.

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB--2015
ELECTED OFFICERS
President: Frank Garay, KJ6RWQ
Vice President: Kim, KI6JNX
Secretary: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Director: Antonio DelRio, N6ZGB
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Arthur Miller, KI6UXE
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB

APPOINTED POSITIONS
Net Control Chairperson: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Club Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

Steves test equipment consisted of Icom-735 as an RF generator, a Realistic RF wattmeter, and two 53-ohm ceramic dummy loads

Steve went right to work and set up his Icom 735 as an RF generator, a Realistic RF wattmeter, and two ceramic 53-ohm dummy loads which were used independently.

Steve used an Icom-735 as an RF generator, a Realistic RF wattmeter, and two 53-ohm ceramic dummy loads that were used independently. The dummy loads had

Steve, KJ6KIH testing at the antenna

questionable reactance and he interchanged them during the testing.

Two frequencies run were; 3.840Mhz and 28.35Mhz. The impedances in the dummy loads appeared fairly close. Steve guessed their impedance were mostly DC resistive. [Z=SQRT(R^2+X^2), X being the difference of XL and XC.]

He measured the RF power at the transmitter output first (P1), and than checked the power at the far

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end of the suspect coax with each of the dummy loads connected for both tests. (P2)

With the testing completed, the antenna was raised by the group

The group sat around at the end of the day devouring donuts provided by the host and generally shooting the breeze.

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Steve used the dB calculation to show the power loss in Richard's RG8x coax with; dB=10*log(power out / power in).

At 3.840Mhz the loss was 1.2 to .9 dB.

At 28.35Mhz the loss was 3.69 to 3.40dB.

RF power was reaching the dipole but was significantly reduced in the coax.

Further investigation revealed that Richard was using 150 feet of RG-58 thinline coax to feed the antenna with a large coil of the coax midway along the run to take up the slack resulting in a large loss in power at the antenna.

With the results determined and what Richard needed to do, the group sat around for a while devouring donuts provided by the host and generally shooting the breeze.

Jerry , KJ6SCC & Steve, KJ6KIH

Bonfires

In Northern Ireland, it was customary for Druids to perform ritualistic ceremonies and make sacrifices to pacify their gods. The Celts would bring wood and start their Samhain bonfire or, fire festival, on the hilltop. Often, they would throw the bones of slaughtered cattle into the flames. The word "bonfire" was said to be derived from such "bone fires." Bonfires and sacrifices guaranteed that the sun would burn brightly after a long, dreary winter.

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

1st week of month-Open
2nd week of month-Richard Craig; KJ6MIB
3rd week of month-Chris Jones; KD7TQO
4th week of month-Jerry Olive, K6WKY
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt; K6HEW

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-)
WV6F 440.025(+)
WV6F 1291.900(-)

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Elmira Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

Clean Sweep on a Buddipole

Jerry, KD6WKY

I worked a Clean Sweep this year in the November Sweepstakes! Part of my success was an improved antenna on 80 meters SSB erected just for the contest. My permanent antennas for the low bands are an Alpha Delta 40m/80m inverted vee dipole up 30' at the apex, and a GAP Titan DX multi-band vertical antenna on the side of the house. Neither antenna is tuned in the SSB portion of the 80 meter band very well. The dipole acts more like a Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NIVS) in performance on 80 meters;usable but not that great. On 40 meters the dipole is very good.

I got to thinking about improving the 80 meter SSB portion of my antenna array at home leading up to November Sweepstakes and thought about trying my Buddipole™ on 80 meters since it worked so well in the walnut orchard (Yolo CE) during the California QSO Party.

Saturday morning before the contest I ladderedup to the roof with my Buddipole™ pack over my shoulder and assembled the temporary antenna in the 80 meter vertical configuration featuring the big loading coil and the 66' counterpoise wire off the base of the coil.The counterpoise stretched out to the Japanese Maple Tree in the front yard.

After assembly and double-checking the guys for a secure fit, I tuned the antenna by tapping the coil then raised the mast to its full extension. The antenna was tuned to a 1.2:1match at 3.776 MHz with about an 80 KHz band width below 2.5:1 at the ends.

A third of my 320 contacts were on 80 meters. I spent most of my time in the contest during the evening hours because of other things going on around the house. On Saturday evening I thought 80 meters got much better after 0600 UTC going long into the Midwest and mid-Atlantic Sections. There were a couple of MDC stations that were booming! I worked plenty of West Coast and Rocky Mountain contacts as well. Over all, I picked up a dozen new sections on 80 meters making the Clean Sweep more doable as the contest moved forward.

I worked VE3ST in ONS with three hours remaining in the contest for section number 83; a goal made easier because of the volume of contacts made earlier on 80 meters with the Buddipole™.

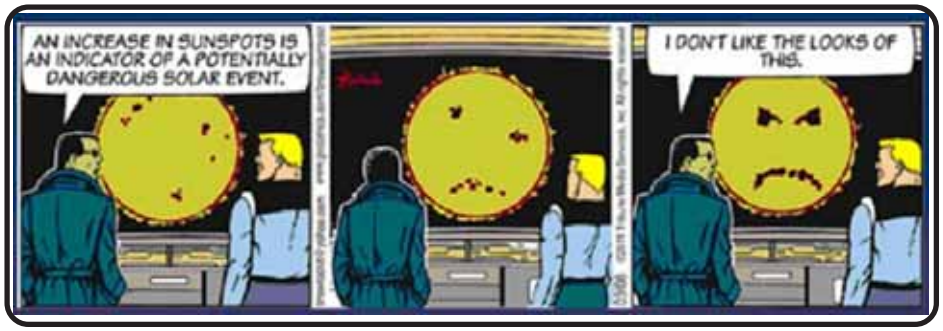
Skip AF6HC helped me with set-up and takedown Sunday evening. I needed it down and put away before The Walking Dead at 9pm on TLC.

This isn't a permanent antenna, but for a contest the added temporary radiator made a difference in my score. Perhaps a temporary antenna might be a good idea in a future contest for you.

Anybody want a copy of Archies Ham Radio Adventure comic book?
Aww, Come on, I'm betting some of you still read comic books!
You can download a PDF of the entire Comic Book at the following link..It's a fun read.

Yes, It's Free

https://kk4dsd.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/archies_ham_radio_adventure.pdf



20 meters Cage Dipole

It was August, I was on vacation, I was away from QTH and I had no access to any resource but some hardware tools and a lot of thin wire (the kind used for telephone lines). I badly needed an antenna for 20 meters. It was when the Cage Antenna solution came to my mind. First time I had read about this kind of antenna was when I got my first Antenna Book. Cage Dipole is based on the fact that a wireframe does emulate a tubing of the same diameter, supposed that the wires in the frame are close enough to resemble a solid surface.

I had a piece of plastic tubing, diameter 60 mm., so I decided this was going to be the diamter of my wireframe. I cut three pieces out of the one I had, the first and the second piece together about the same length of the thirs one. The first and the second were going to be used as antenna ends holders, the third as central spacer.

Fig-1

I made 8 holes (fig. 1) on both the sides of the central support and on just one side of the other two (fig.

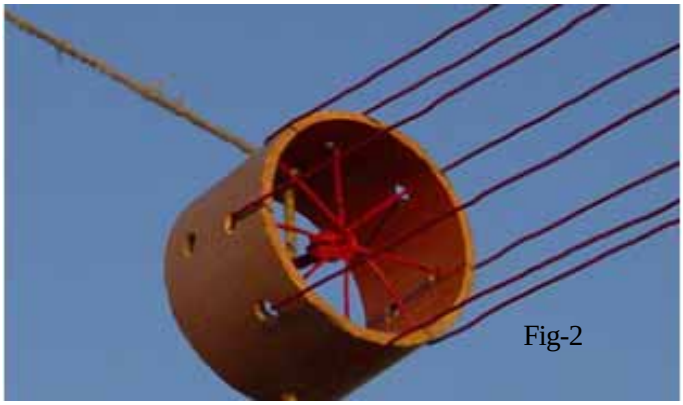


Fig-2

2). On those last two I made 4 more holes on the opposite side of the 8 ones, useful to hold the dipole up in the air. Then I cut 16 pieces of my telephone wire, each 5.20 meters long. The wires have been then fixed to the plastic supports passing them through the holes and tying all together like in fig. 3. The biggest problem in this phase is that, in order to assemble the thing, the antenna must be always hold in tension, to avoid the tying of the thin wires, and to make sure that the tie inside the support tubing is made so that all the cable will show the same length caming out od the holes.

Finally, I obtained two dipole legs, each made of 8 wires. now, the ends of the wires MUST be soldered together on both the sides. The soldering on the central side of the legs will be the connection point to the coaxial cable. An RF choke coil is recommended for this antenna, building it directly out of feed coaxial cable. I used RG58, not surely because it is the best you can use but because it was the only one I had in house. Fig. 5 shows the complete work, already holding on the roof of the building.

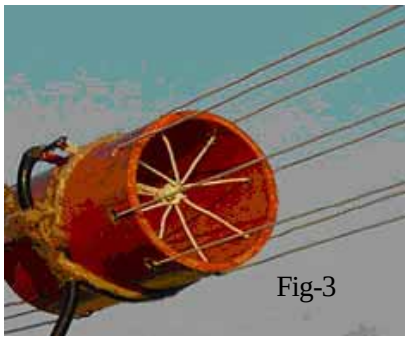


Fig-3

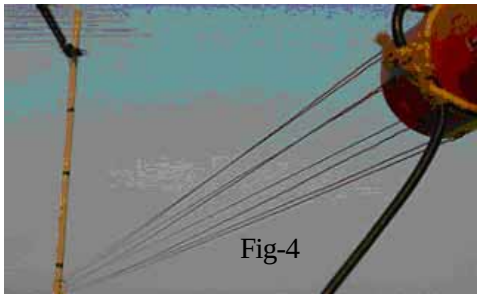


Fig-4

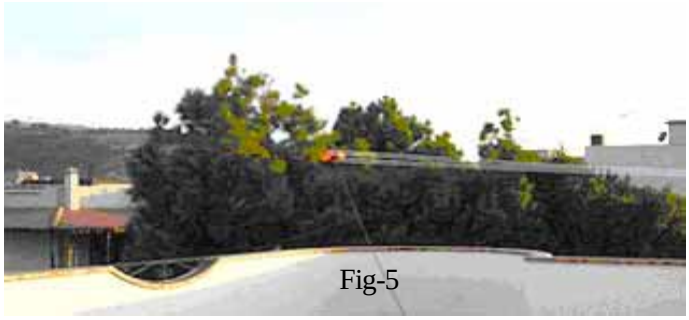


Fig-5

Results have been really satisfactory, with the antenna showing no SWR at all, and the largest bandwidth I had ever seen. The day after the assembling I was successfully running a couple of QSO with ZL.

73 de iz2eeq

THE BIT BUCKET

A Real DX Hound

The latest Dxpedition VK9WA on Willis Island was on the air beginning Saturday, November 14. I worked them on 10 meter phone then immediately texted Skip AF6HC with the details.

The guy was on the roof spreading out a tarp to mitigate any possible rain damage to his patio at the time of the text. Skip dropped everything, climbed down off the roof, went in and worked VK9WA on 10 meter phone. Realizing it was getting dark, Skip AF6HC climbed back on the roof to finish the job. Skip AF6HC has turned into a real DX Hound!

Jerry Olive

Staying Focused Pays Off

I worked a Clean Sweep this year in the November Sweepstakes! Part of my success was an improved antenna on 80 meters SSB erected just for the contest. My permanent antennas for the low bands are an Alpha Delta 40m/80m inverted vee dipole up 30' at the apex, and a GAP Titan DX multi-band vertical antenna on the side of the house. Neither antenna is tuned in the SSB portion of the 80 meter band very well. The dipole acts more like a Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NIVS) in performance on 80 meters;usable but not that great. On 40 meters the dipole is very good.

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An ancient myth was that the image in a mirror is our actual soul. A broken mirror represented the soul being astray from your body. T o break the spell of misfortune, you must wait seven hours (one for each year of bad luck) before picking up the broken pieces, and burying them outside in the moonlight

Meriment on Main Volunteers

This is the largest group we've had in years; very exciting! As we get closer to December 1, please watch for an update on the details of Merriment on Main or refer to the flyer you received in the mail.

Vince Cavallo KK6BEK
Richard Craig KJ6MIB
Antonio Del Rio N6ZGB
Frank Garay KJ6RWQ
Chris Jones KD7TQO
Skip Lawson AF6HC
Marcus Maclean KI6WDX
Art Miller KI6UXE
Charles Norton KC7ADD
Jerry Olive KD6WKY
Jorge Vidal KK4XU
Lauren Vidal K6LIV
Maria Vidal KC4PGH
Mike Vieira W6MAV
Kim Ware KI6JNX

An example of staying focused

KD6WKY.log

I got a Clean Sweep this year; all 83 ARRL Sections!

KD6WKY's Contest Summary Report for ARRL-SSCreated by N3FJP's ARRL November Sweepstakes Contest LogVersion 5.8 www.n3fjp.com Total Contacts = 320Total Points = 53,120 Operating Period: 2015/11/21 23:10 - 2015/11/23 02:56

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	
80	0	110	0	110	34
40	0	90	0	90	28
20	0	49	0	49	15
15	0	48	0	48	15
10	0	23	0	23	7
Total	0	320	0	320	100

Continued From Page 1------->

abstaining = 3; and MAYBE = 1. (***MAYBE??*** Is that true commitment or what?!)

Another proposal was made to change the meeting format – eliminating the elected officers board meeting prior to each general membership meeting, and meeting only in accordance with the bylaws, or when needed. (I refer the members to the bylaws to read the paragraph on this matter.) The motion was "tabled" until later because it was getting very late and we still needed to "*nominate*" two elected officers to run so that we could formally elect them into office…. (!)

Our present President – Frank, finally agreed to "run" for the office of V.P., and Brian – KK6BXP, was kind enough to step up and volunteer for the office of Secretary.

After asking members of the sitting Board of Directors if any of them would be willing to stay on for another term, the slate was finally polished off by adding: Antonio – N6ZGB; Richard – KJ6MIB; and Art – KI6UXE.

So, with the slate *finally* filled, Frank called for a "*show of hands*" vote to accept the slate of officers as we had it, resulting in the following newOfficer – selectees:

Pres.	Marcus
VP	Frank
Treas	Bob
Secretary	Brian

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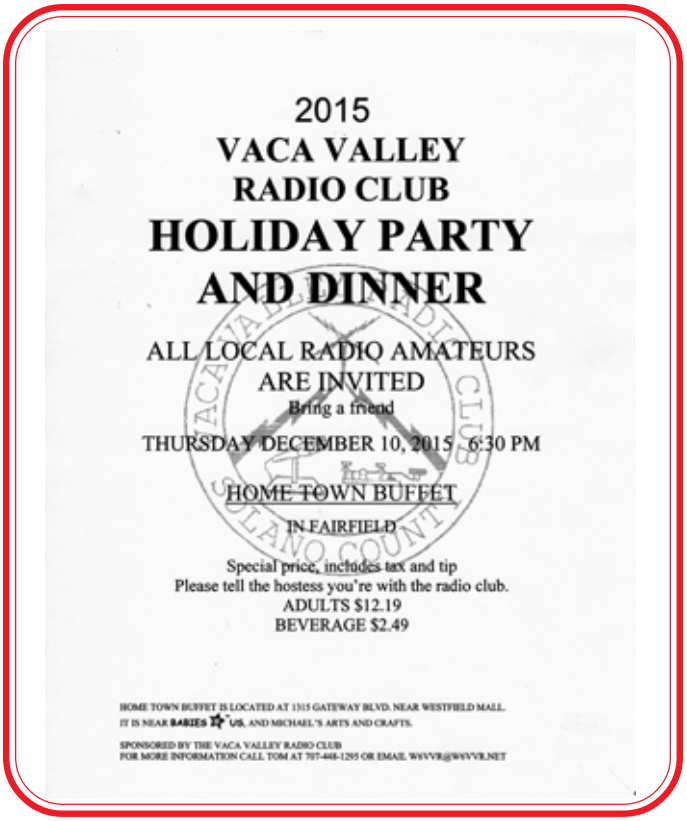
B.O.D.s = Ruff; Antonio; Richard; Art.

The following APPOINTED POSITIONS will be filled when the new officers take their chairs:

VVRC Net Control Chairperson: under the direction of the **V.P.**
Club Activities Chairperson: usually the **V.P.**
Newsletter Editor: Jerry - KJ6SCC- **to be confirmed**
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob - K6HEW **to be confirmed**

With the evening running very late, the meeting was adjourned at 20:45hr.

Respectfully submitted,
***"Skip"* – AF6HC**
Secretary



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

Street:
_____

City: _____Zip:
_____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

E-Mail
Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues	$20.00	_____
Each Family Member	$ 2.00	_____
Student	$ 5.00	_____
Repeater/Autopatch donation		_____
Call/Name badge	$11.00	_____
Optional ARRL membership		
ARRL dues	$37.00	
Total		_____

Paid by CASH: Check # _____

DATE: _____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143